

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced the unsealing yesterday of an indictment returned on July 18, 2007, charging Wayne Ruoho, 40, Baldwin, Wisconsin, with conspiring to distribute methamphetamine. Ruoho was arrested on July 23, 2007, in St. Croix County, Wisconsin, by federal, state, and local law enforcement officers. He will make his initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Madison today.

The indictment alleges that Ruoho conspired from September 2001 to the end of December 2004 to distribute, and possess with the intent to distribute, methamphetamine. The indictment alleges that Ruoho traveled with co-conspirators from Minnesota to California, transporting large amounts of U.S. currency to obtain multi-pound quantities of methamphetamine; the indictment further alleges that large quantities of methamphetamine obtained in California were then transported to Minnesota for distribution by Ruoho and his partners in various locations, including Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The indictment alleges that Ruoho utilized couriers to deliver methamphetamine, and personally delivered methamphetamine, to his co-conspirators

for distribution in the Western District of Wisconsin. Finally, the indictment alleges that Angela Trudelle, formerly of Washburn County, Wisconsin, distributed Ruoho's methamphetamine to customers from various counties in the Western District of Wisconsin, including Washburn and Barron Counties. The indictment also alleges that Michele and Timothy Nelson also distributed Ruoho's methamphetamine to customers in various counties, including St. Croix, Pierce, and Dunn counties. Angela Trudelle and Michele Nelson have been convicted, sentenced, and are serving lengthy sentences in federal prison. Timothy Nelson has pleaded guilty to this conspiracy and is awaiting sentencing.

United States Attorney Peterson stated that this indictment was the result of a long-term investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau; the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension; the St. Croix County Sheriff's Department; the Washburn County Sheriff's Department; and the Barron County Sheriff's Department.

In addition to Michele Nelson (262 months) and Angela Trudelle (119 months), Lawrence Bauer (262 months), Terry Mortier (135 months), Richard Holland (170 months), Jamie Briesemeister (121 months), and Reanne Taylor (180 months) have all been convicted and sentenced to federal prison as a result of their involvement in this methamphetamine conspiracy. Prosecution of these cases have been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is

presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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